

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 as follows:

—Both ends 102 and 104 may include openings such as 116 so as to permit for the growth of bone and vascular access therethrough. Similarly, sides 106, 108 can include openings such as 118 for similar or other purposes. Implant 100 preferably has an open interior 120 between sides 106, 108 to permit for the growth of bone from adjacent vertebral body to adjacent vertebral body therethrough. The implant 100 itself, any of its various surfaces, open interior 120 and/or any of its openings such as 114, 116, 118, for example, can be coated with, or contain bone growth promoting materials, including but not limited to, bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, genes coding for the production of bone, or any other material that intrinsically participates in the growth of bone from one of the adjacent vertebral bodies to the other of the adjacent vertebral bodies at the fusion site. Implant 100 may also be combined with a chemical substance to inhibit scar formation —